

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An information delivery system for causing a receiving terminal to conduct pre-reading processing prior to data reproduction processing, select suitable data from a candidate program head data group in a received data storage and reproduce the selected data at time of reproduction, and change over reproduction data at time when following data is delivered from a transmitter,

wherein the receiving terminal is operable to select the suitable data in accordance with a reproduction environment which is at least one of a plurality of environments related to a state of connection between the receiving terminal and the transmitter, including an arithmetic operation capability which can be utilized by the receiving terminal and a reproduction quality, and

candidate program head data group is a set of head data of sequence data which are formed into a plurality of formats corresponding to the one reproduction environment or a plurality of reproduction environments of the [[a]] receiving terminal, in one candidate program or a plurality of candidate programs that might be viewed by a user at a single opportunity.

14. (Previously Presented) The information delivery system according to claim 13, wherein

the receiving terminal comprises:

a request transmitter for transmitting a sequence transmission request to the transmitter to specify a sequence to be reproduced and outputting identification information of the sequence to be reproduced;

a reproduction sequence selector for reading out head sequence data of a sequence requested to be reproduced, from the received data storage;

means for receiving following sequence data from the transmitter;

a switcher for changing over between the head sequence data and the following sequence data; and

a decoder for reproducing sequence data supplied from the switcher, and

the transmitter comprises:

a transmitting sequence selector for receiving the sequence transmission request from the receiving terminal, reading out a following portion of the head sequence data included in sequence data of the sequence requested to be reproduced, from a transmission data storage, and delivering the following sequence data to the receiving terminal.

15. (Previously Presented) The information delivery system according to claim 13, wherein the candidate program is a subset of programs obtained as a result of retrieval processing for all programs.

16. (Previously Presented) The information delivery system according to claim 13, wherein the candidate program is a subset of programs restricted on the basis of personal information of a user from among all programs.

17. (Previously Presented) The information delivery system according to claim 13, wherein

the receiving terminal comprises:

a candidate program determiner for transmitting candidate program request information to the transmitter; and

means for receiving the candidate program head data group from the transmitter and storing the candidate program head data group in the received data storage, and

the transmitter comprises:

a candidate program head data reader responsive to reception of the candidate program request information from the receiving terminal, for reading out a head data group of a candidate program from the transmission data storage and transmitting the candidate program head data group to the receiving terminal.

18. (Previously Presented) The information delivery system according to claim 13, wherein

the sequence transmission request transmitted by the receiving terminal comprises environment information concerning a current reproduction environment of the receiving terminal, and

when reading out the head sequence data from the received data storage, the reproduction sequence selector reads out the head sequence data having a data format most suitable for the current reproduction environment from the received data storage.

19. (Previously Presented) The information delivery system according to claim 13, wherein

the head sequence data comprises management data for managing delivery service, upon reproducing the head sequence data, the receiving terminal transmits the management data to the transmitter, and

the transmitter determines an optimum data format of following data and delivers sequence data, on the basis of received management data.

20. (Previously Presented) An information delivery method for causing a receiving terminal to conduct pre-reading processing prior to data reproduction processing, select suitable data from a candidate program head data group in a received data storage and reproduce the selected data at time of reproduction, and change over reproduction data at time when following data is delivered from a transmitter,

wherein the receiving terminal is operable to select the suitable data in accordance with a reproduction environment which is at least one of a plurality of environments related to a state of connection between the receiving terminal and the transmitter, including an arithmetic operation capability which can be utilized by the receiving terminal and a reproduction quality, and

the candidate program head data group is a set of head data of sequence data which are formed into a plurality of formats corresponding to ~~one~~ the reproduction environment ~~or a~~

~~plurality of reproduction environments~~ of [[a]] the receiving terminal, in one candidate program or a plurality of candidate programs that might be viewed by a user at a single opportunity.

21. (Previously Presented) The information delivery method according to claim 20, comprising the steps of:

causing the receiving terminal to transmit a sequence transmission request to the transmitter to specify a sequence to be reproduced;

causing the receiving terminal to read out head sequence data of a sequence requested to be reproduced, from the received data storage and reproduce the sequence data;

causing the transmitter to receive the sequence transmission request, read out a following portion of the head sequence data included in sequence data of the sequence requested to be reproduced, from a transmission data storage, and delivering the following sequence data to the receiving terminal;

causing the receiving terminal to receive the following sequence data and change over between the head sequence data and the following sequence data; and

reproducing the following sequence data.

22. (Previously Presented) The information delivery method according to claim 20, wherein the candidate program is a subset of programs obtained as a result of retrieval processing for all programs.

23. (Previously Presented) The information delivery method according to claim 20, comprising the steps of:

causing the receiving terminal to transmit candidate program request information to the transmitter;

causing the transmitter to receive the candidate program request information, read out a head data group of a candidate program from the transmission data storage, and transmit the candidate program head data group to the receiving terminal; and

causing the receiving terminal to receive the candidate program head data group and store the candidate program head data group in the received data storage.

24. (Previously Presented) The information delivery method according to claim 20, wherein

the sequence transmission request transmitted by the receiving terminal comprises environment information concerning a current reproduction environment of the receiving terminal, and

when reading out the head sequence data from the received data storage, reading out head sequence data having a data format most suitable for the current reproduction environment from the received data storage.

25. (Previously Presented) The information delivery method according to claim 20, wherein

the head sequence data comprises management data for managing delivery service, upon reproducing the head sequence data, the receiving terminal transmits the management data to the transmitter, and

the transmitter determines an optimum data format of following data and delivers sequence data, on the basis of received management data.

26. (Previously Presented) An information delivery apparatus serving as a transmitter included in an information delivery system for causing a receiving terminal to conduct pre-reading processing prior to data reproduction processing, select suitable data from a candidate program head data group in a received data storage and reproduce the selected data at time of reproduction, and change over reproduction data at time when following data is delivered from the transmitter, wherein the receiving terminal is operable to select the suitable data in accordance with a reproduction environment which is at least one of a plurality of environments related to a state of connection between the receiving terminal and the transmitter, including an

arithmetic operation capability which can be utilized by the receiving terminal and a reproduction quality, and

the candidate program head data group is a set of head data of sequence data which are formed into a plurality of formats corresponding to ~~one~~ the reproduction environment ~~or a plurality of reproduction environments~~ of ~~[[a]]~~ the receiving terminal, in one candidate program or a plurality of candidate programs that might be viewed by a user at a single opportunity.

27. (Previously Presented) An information delivery apparatus according to claim 26, comprising:

a candidate program head data reader responsive to reception of the candidate program request information from the receiving terminal, for reading out a head data group of a candidate program from the transmission data storage and transmitting the candidate program head data group to the receiving terminal; and

a transmitting sequence selector for receiving a sequence transmission request specifying a reproduction sequence in the receiving terminal from the receiving terminal, reading out a following portion of the head sequence data included in sequence data of the sequence requested to be reproduced and previously sent to the receiving terminal from a transmission data storage, and delivering the following sequence data to the receiving terminal.

28. (Previously Presented) A receiving terminal included in an information delivery system for causing the receiving terminal to conduct pre-reading processing prior to data reproduction processing, select suitable data from a candidate program head data group in a received data storage and reproduce the selected data at time of reproduction, and change over reproduction data at time when following data is delivered from the transmitter,

wherein the receiving terminal is operable to select the suitable data in accordance with a reproduction environment which is at least one of a plurality of environments related to a state of connection between the receiving terminal and the transmitter, including an arithmetic operation capability which can be utilized by the receiving terminal and a reproduction quality, and

the candidate program head data group is a set of head data of sequence data which are formed into a plurality of formats corresponding to ~~one~~ the reproduction environment ~~or a plurality of reproduction environments~~ of ~~[[a]]~~ the receiving terminal, in one candidate program or a plurality of candidate programs that might be viewed by a user at a single opportunity.

29. (Previously Presented) The receiving terminal according to claim 28, comprising:

a request transmitter for transmitting a sequence transmission request specifying a reproduction sequence to the transmitter and outputting identification information of a sequence to be reproduced;

a reproduction sequence selector for reading out head sequence data of a sequence requested to be reproduced, from the received data storage;

means for receiving following sequence data from the transmitter;

a switcher for changing over between the head sequence data and the following sequence data; and

a decoder for reproducing sequence data supplied from the switcher.

30. (Previously Presented) An information relay apparatus included in an information delivery system for causing a receiving terminal to conduct pre-reading processing prior to data reproduction processing, select suitable data from a candidate program head data group in a received data storage and reproduce the selected data at time of reproduction, and change over reproduction data at time when following data is delivered from the transmitter,

wherein the receiving terminal is operable to select the suitable data in accordance with a reproduction environment which is at least one of a plurality of environments related to a state of connection between the receiving terminal and the transmitter, including an arithmetic operation capability which can be utilized by the receiving terminal and a reproduction quality, and

the candidate program head data group is a set of head data of sequence data which are formed into a plurality of formats corresponding to ~~one~~ the reproduction environment ~~or a~~

~~plurality of reproduction environments~~ of ~~[[a]]~~ the receiving terminal, in one candidate program or a plurality of candidate programs that might be viewed by a user at a single opportunity.

31. (Previously Presented) The information relay apparatus according to claim 30, comprising a request transmitter for generating a sequence transmission request to specify a reproduction sequence in the received terminal and transmitting the sequence transmission request to the transmitter.